



YPSI MIX

OCTOBER 2019

October Events

312 N. River Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

734.483.1520

Friday, October 25th

Ypsi Glow

Come check out the coop's special glowing event and sample some cider and apple fritters!

Saturday October 26th

Treat Street in Depot Town and at the Freighthouse! Join in the fun for some Halloween delights!

Tuesday October 29th,
6:30pm

Board of Directors Meeting
Everyone is welcome to attend Board Meetings except when an executive session is called.



Look out for our Facebook events for additional information!

October is Co-op Month by Don Broersma

Cooperatives have a very long and varied history; in 1752 one of the first worldwide cooperatives formed—the insurance company called the Philadelphia Contributorship found by Benjamin Franklin. It was in 1844, on a cold December night in the small industrial town of Rochdale, England that the modern cooperative movement formally began though. It was started by 28 weavers with a small store with only 5 items to choose from! This was an attempt to stop the exorbitant prices for people's basic needs, such as food, clothing and soap that was occurring by the *Company Shops*, owned by the factories, with no quality or price controls. The weavers had a plan and a philosophy and they set up the Rochdale "Principle of Cooperation" which became the cooperatives around the world.

In the book *"We Own It"* the writers acknowledge that "a cooperative is a social organization as much as it is an economic one. Coops are groups of people—people who can work together, who can understand and respect one another, who can agree on common needs and goals and how they're to be accomplished."

There are many types of coops that are owned and run by workers, consumers or farmers.

Another aspect of co-ops is that they commit in multiple ways to their communities and the world, such as: committing to organic practices, committing to fair trade, committing to strengthening the local economy, committing to member democratic control, committing to education, committing to sustainability, and more! Here at YFC we have committed to the Ypsilanti Community and are excited to participate in celebrating National Co-op Month!

Why is it important to have a National Co-op Month? According to Sarah Crozier, Co-Op Month Committee Co-Chair, "...we observe Co-Op Month every October, with the goal of encouraging more people to be a part of cooperatives and take advantage of the benefits."

Here are 2 fun youtube videos on the history of coops, including YFC:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70I7gRBJcvM>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FwpI55nUQpg>

Coop Month Member Drive

If you haven't renewed for the year, or aren't a member yet, you will get a reduced rate to join, and be entered to win a prize! New members could win a gift basket and renewing members could win a pie from our bakery, filled with delicious

Michigan fruit!

During the month, it is only \$20 to become a new member at YFC! Or only \$10.00 to renew. We have a goal of reaching 1,000 member owners, so help us increase our Cooperative!



October is also Fair Trade Month

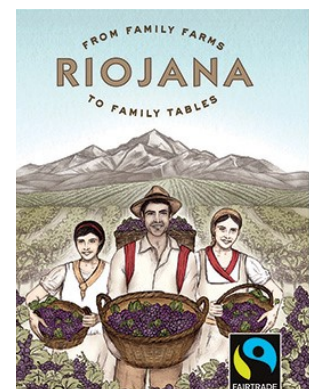
Some of our favorite brands are celebrated this month: Equal Exchange, Maggies Organics and LaRiojana !

WHAT IS FAIRTRADE?
THE 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 1 OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISADVANTAGED PRODUCERS**
Poverty reduction must form a key part of the organisation's aims. It must assist vulnerable producers in moving from income insecurity to economic self-sufficiency and ownership.
- 2 TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY**
The organisation must be transparent in its management and commercial relations. The business must also involve employees, members and producers in decision-making processes.
- 3 FAIR TRADING PRACTICES**
The organisation must have concern for the social, economic and environmental well-being of marginalised producers.
- 4 PAYMENT OF A FAIR PRICE**
A fair price is one that has been mutually agreed by all through dialogue and participation, provides fair pay to the producers and can also be sustained by the market.
- 5 NO CHILD OR FORCED LABOUR**
The organisation must adhere to the 'United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child' and local law on the employment of children.
- 6 FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION & GENDER EQUALITY**
The organisation cannot discriminate in hiring, remuneration, training, promotion, termination or retirement. There must be a clear policy to promote gender equality.
- 7 GOOD WORKING CONDITIONS**
The organisation must provide a safe and healthy working environment for employees. It must comply with national and local laws on health & safety.
- 8 CAPACITY BUILDING**
Organisations must work directly with small producers to help them to improve their management skills, production capabilities & access to markets.
- 9 PROMOTING FAIR TRADE**
The organisation must raise awareness of the aims of Fair Trade and of the need for greater justice in world trade.
- 10 RESPECT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**
Organisations must maximise the use of raw materials from sustainably managed sources in their ranges, buying locally when possible.

To ensure that you are really purchasing a Fair Trade product, always check that it is legitimately endorsed by a Fair Trade Certifier. This ensures that the producer has sufficiently demonstrated that they comply with the 10 Guiding Principles of Fair Trade and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions.

For full information, please visit www.fta.org.au or www.wfto.com



La Rioja, one of the largest Argentina wineries, started as a small bodega buying grapes to make wine and eventually they began growing their own grapes for their wine. This cooperative consists of hundreds of families working together to tend the cooperative. from small beginnings they now produce close to 40 million liters of wine , and over 4 million cases of wine per year.

There are over 500 producer partners involved and over 80% of their members are small-scale producers.

La Rioja prioritizes providing for their members by giving members a higher market price for their grapes, and ensuring lower prices through collective purchasing power. They were the first Argentine winery to become Fairtrade Certified in 2006 and are, now the largest Fairtrade wine

producer in the world! They are certified organic, and prioritize sustainability.

YFC is proud to carry La Rioja wines and thereby living out our seventh principle to support other cooperatives!

Grab a bottle of organic, Fairtrade, sustainably and cooperatively made La Rioja wine or olive oil! <https://www.facebook.com/ypsifoodcoop/>